

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 586

By Tracy

A RESOLUTION congratulating the Middle Tennessee State University baseball team on winning the Sun Belt Conference Tournament Championship and upon receiving a bid to compete in the National Collegiate Athletics Association's National Tournament.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly pause in their deliberations to specially recognize those intrepid and successful sports teams whose exploits serve to bring honor and respect to their schools and to this State; and

WHEREAS, the Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) baseball team is one such sports squad whose recent success is worthy of recognition; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Raiders of MTSU won their second Sun Belt Conference (SBC) championship on May 24, 2009, thereby gaining an automatic bid to the National Collegiate Athletics Association's (NCAA) National Tournament and marking the 14th NCAA appearance in the school's history; and

WHEREAS, the Blue Raiders defeated the University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM) by the score of 3-1 in the title game of the 2009 Sun Belt Conference Championships, which were hosted this year by Troy University in Troy, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, under the expert guidance of Head Coach Steve Peterson, Middle Tennessee broke the school record for wins in a season after picking up its 43rd win and improving to 43-16 on the season; and

WHEREAS, Kenneth Roberts garnered Most Outstanding Player honors, while Nathan Hines, Bryce Brentz, and Rawley Bishop were named to the All-Tournament Team; and

WHEREAS, the members of the 2009 Sun Belt Conference Champion Middle Tennessee State University baseball team are: Justin Miller, Tyler Burnett, Taylor Dennis, Zach

Hudson, Robert Lawrence, Bryce Brentz, Myles Ervin, Tyler Acker, Grant Box, Hunter Dawson, Nathan Hines, Stuart Meinhart, Justin Guidry, Chad Edwards, Rawley Bishop, Ben Darlington, Brett Smalley, Blake McDade, Drew Robertson, Coty Woods, Brett Wilson, Steven Watson, Joey McClung, Nick Montgomery, Jud Stoltz, Wes Caldwell, Kenneth Roberts, Zach Dean, Tyler Hyde, Marshall Mears, Justin Jones, Chad Coley, and Kevin Whittaker; and

WHEREAS, the dedication and expertise of the Blue Raiders' coaching staff throughout the season proved invaluable to the team's success; skillfully assisting Head Coach Steve Peterson were: Associate Head Coach Jim McGuire, Assistant Coach Mike McLaury, Volunteer Assistant John Peterson, Sports Medicine Assistant Jim Starkey, Manager Adam Lairamore, and Manager John Harris; and

WHEREAS, with the SBC Tournament victory, the Blue Raiders received a bid to play in the National Collegiate Athletic Association's National Tournament, an achievement accomplished by only the finest collegiate baseball teams in the nation; and

WHEREAS, for their dedication to excellence and their unwavering commitment to the pursuit of victory, the Middle Tennessee Blue Raider baseball team is worthy of commendation by this Body; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we congratulate and commend the Middle Tennessee State University baseball team on winning the Sun Belt Conference Tournament Championship and offer our best wishes for their continued success in the NCAA Tournament.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.